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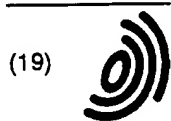
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(54) Method and apparatus for enhancing the efficiency of radiant energy sources used in rapid thermal processing of substrates by energy reflection

(57) A rapid thermal heating system which includes a plurality of radiant energy sources (39) to irradiate a predetermined area of a substrate (81). The radiant energy sources are associated with reflectors (159) where-

in portions of radiated areas of adjacent radiant energy sources overlap. The reflectors include a flared specular surface (160) at their light emitting end or outlet. The flared specular surface reflects radiant energy toward the substrate.

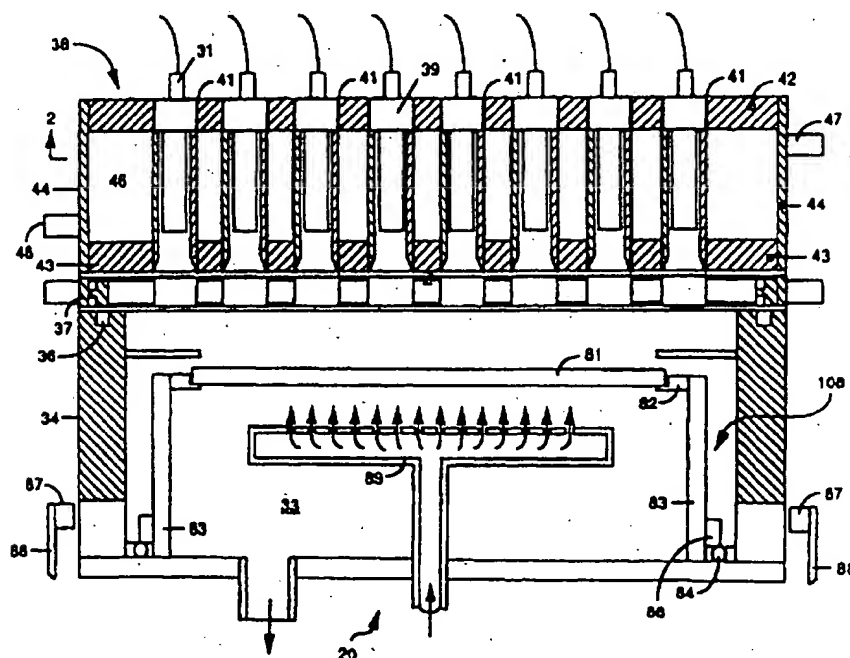


FIGURE 1

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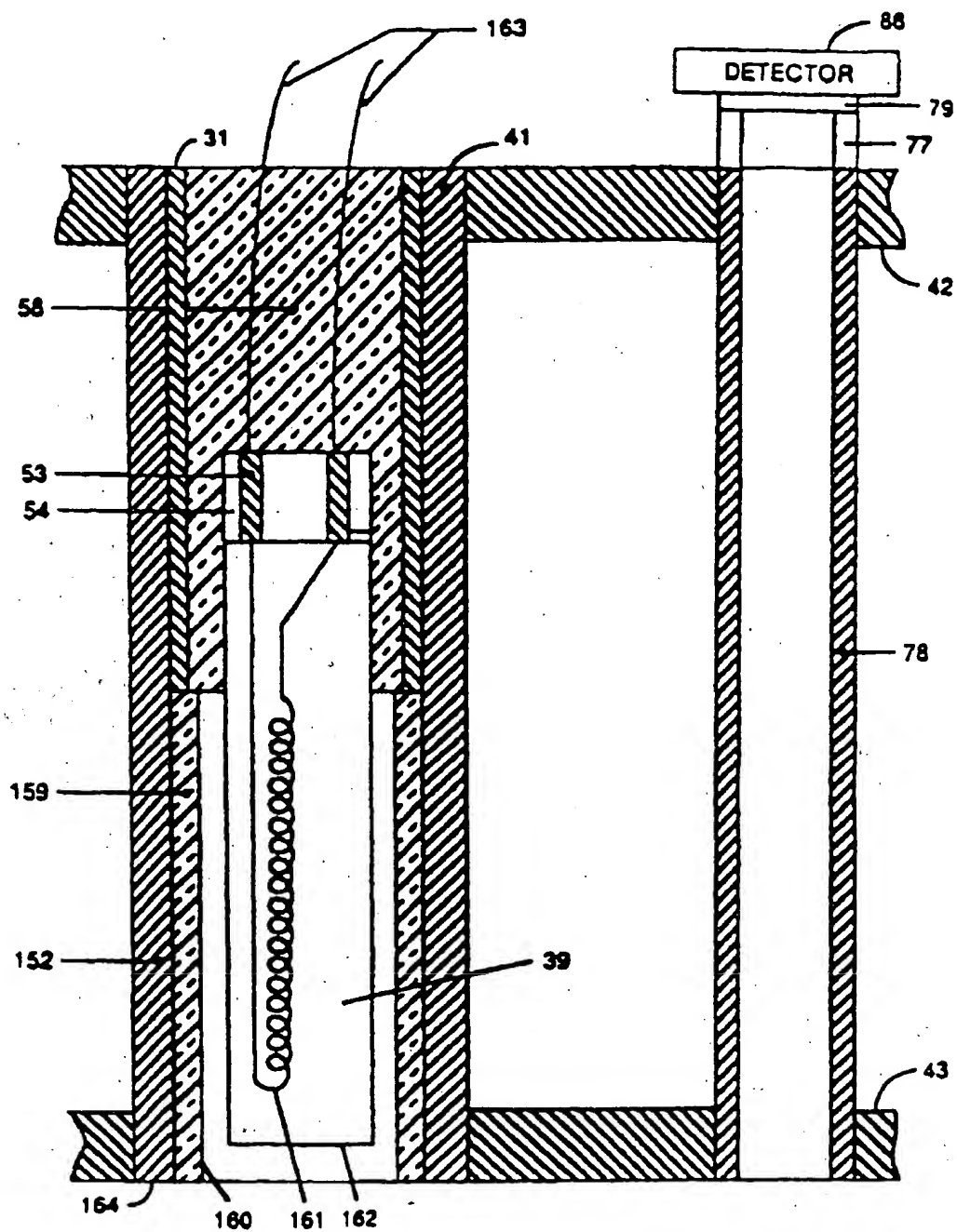


FIGURE 2



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 3855

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 695 922 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC) 7 February 1996 * the whole document *	1,2,17, 21-23	C30B31/14 C23C16/04 H01L21/00 C30B25/10 C23C16/48
D	& US 5 155 336 A (GRONET ET AL.) ---		
A	US 5 446 825 A (MOSLEH ET AL.) 29 August 1995 ---		
A	EP 0 291 273 A (GEMINI RESEARCH INC) 17 November 1988 -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C30B C23C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 June 1998	Examiner Cook, S
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